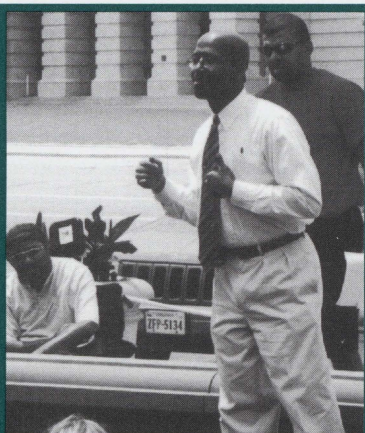




On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695

July 27, 2001
Vol. 31, No. 20

Lindsay Dunn (right), special assistant to the president for diversity and community relations, addresses members of the United States Deaflympics team (below) at a July 11 rally at the U.S. Capitol advocating for more funding from the United States Olympic Committee. "You must bring this issue to the attention of Congress. They must hear you now," he said. "Explain to Congress that you represent America. It is the American flag that rises when you are on the victory stand."



'USOC, hear us now,' say Deaflympians

The United States Olympic Committee was the target of the United States Deaflympians at a July 11 rally at the United States Capitol to protest unequal treatment received by the Deaflympians, compared to the hearing Olympic team and the Paralympic teams, which receive full funding from the USOC.

"I represent the United States of America in this international competition and I am paying to go," complained Kevin Smith of Chicago, Ill., a member of the men's basketball team. Then Smith led one of many chants from the deaf athletes: "USOC, hear us now!"

This message was hammered again and again as speakers rose to point out the inequity between the groups of accomplished athletes. "While our counterparts in the Olympic and Paralympic movements are fully funded in the millions of dollars, we receive a paltry sum—just \$350,000 every four years for Summer Games Deaflympics—from the USOC," according to Bobbie Beth Scoggins, president of the USA Deaf Sports Federation.

All the members of the team are required to raise a large sum of money every four years, mostly from car washes, bake sales, and soliciting businesses, individuals, and their own family members. Greg Reese, a swimmer from Atlanta, Ga., has participated in four consecutive World Games, starting with the 1989 games when he was just 16 years old. "I was so excited that I was going to represent my country in an international competition," said Reese. "But I had to raise \$4,500. So I asked companies and individuals for money. Thanks to their support I was able to participate in

those games." Each year, however, the interest from sponsors has waned for Reese. "This year, no one would give me any money, so I had to reach into my own pocket, reluctantly, and pay the \$3,500 fee myself," he said.

The lack of funding has also affected the team's ability to recruit the best deaf athletes in the United States. Several top athletes were not able to attend the games this year and had to be dropped from the team—many at the last minute—because they couldn't come up with the required fees.

Richard Jacobs, of Edmonds, Wash., a member of the handball team, has also been a member of the hearing national team. "It was great being on the hearing national team," he explained. "Everything was taken care of, and I could focus on training full-time. While on the deaf national team, I feel like I am spending more time raising funds than I am training."

The team was at the Capitol to ask their representatives and senators for support in pressuring the USOC to provide more support. According to Scoggins, "Today, we bring our message and our appeal to the people of the United States of America. We hope that our elected representatives in Congress will hear us. We also hope that Congress will revisit the Amateur Sports Act and include language that recognizes the Deaflympics, as well as the Olympics and the Paralympics. Finally, we hope that Congress will bring pressure to bear upon the U.S. Olympic Committee to recognize us. We ask that the USOC give us greater representation in policy-making, decision-

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Portals technology provides new access to information for Gallaudet campus

Gallaudet's ongoing evolution in Internet technology will take another leap this fall when the my.Gallaudet portal project is introduced to campus network users.

Portals are entrances that exist in both the physical and virtual world. The way they can function in cyberspace to facilitate academics and everyday tasks at Kendall Green was explained by Academic Technology Executive Director Cynthia King at a July 5 presentation in the TV Studio for campus senior administrators and faculty governance officers.

Dr. King said the portals provide additional possibilities for accessing information and increasing productivity by giving users the ability to personalize their web sites. For example, employees can keep a calendar of events and keep track of their workload; faculty can post quizzes, lecture notes, and class assignments to students, or make service requests such as reserving media equipment for a special project, arranging for an interpreter, or contacting the Physical Plant Department to turn down an office thermostat.

The portals will permit students and employees to use the web for a personal calendar and task lists, and select channels of information of interest to them. The my.Gallaudet portal also links community members to online coursework, campus organizations, and campus services. This fall, anyone in the campus community can visit <http://my.gallaudet.edu> and login to see this wonderful new tool for themselves.

Some portal services can already be performed through other servers, such as Yahoo and Netscape, said King. But just like in the physical world, where access to a place can be gained through multiple doors, so it is with the virtual world. The portal project accentuates how far technology at Gallaudet has come—from a static web five years ago to one that today is highly personal and customized.

The portals will be supported by Blackboard, a learning management system that was developed at Cornell University in 1996. The Blackboard Tools will be added to the Eduprise Tools, which the Gallaudet community already knows as GDOC (Gallaudet Dynamic Online Collaboration).

King said that perhaps the greatest impact of the portal project is the positive message it carries that Gallaudet is committed to improving its technology, and students arriving for the fall semester will see a tangible new feature on their computers that will facilitate their learning and improve online communication in other ways as well. Portals will allow students to see assignment grades at any time, if their professors use the online gradebook. They will find improved online testing capability, and those who belong to campus organizations will be able to share information with other members.

While students' coursework and employees' personal productivity are the main emphases of the portals at this time, the project can be expanded to obtain other benefits as well. Portals can target off campus groups such as alumni, prospective students, deaf vendors, and others who have an interest in Gallaudet.

During the balance of the summer, Academic Technology will be taking steps to see that the portal project is up and running by the time the fall semester begins. The balance of the summer, data about people, courses, and enrollment will be extracted from Peoplesoft, and early next month a decision will be made on what sectors of the campus will be able to access the portals this fall.

Academic Technology believes that almost everyone on campus will be able to take advantage of the portals, but since the project is only about a month old, it is too early to say for sure. As Gallaudet evolves the portal forward to customize content for specific groups on campus and integrate services provided by Peoplesoft (e.g., online registration), more groups

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Dr. Cynthia King gives a presentation on Gallaudet's portal project to senior administrators and faculty governance officers.



ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

I have enjoyed reading *On the Green's* articles on the web for some time now, and recently read "Aunt Sophie's" article about the Ely fig tree that was chopped down during the renovations currently taking place. It struck a chord in my heart because I know how much that tree meant to the campus community.

But guess what? I know a couple that happens to have the same tree in their backyard in Florida! Actually, this is because they took a broken branch or twig from the tree one day after a spring dance in 1995. They put it in water for a few days. When its roots started to grow, they potted the tree and nurtured it and then

brought it to Florida after they got jobs there. It grew to nine feet, but nearly didn't survive a sudden frost last winter. It's doing well now and should grow back to its former height or higher.

They said to contact them if Gallaudet would like to have this tree back to replace the mother tree it came from.

Fig Finder



Son of Fiona the Fig and cactus buddy in his current home in Florida.

My dear FF,

The "Son of Fiona the Fig" lives! Aunt is ecstatic—and grateful beyond description to your esteemed friends in Florida for their foresight. Please tell them for me, and Fiona's many other devotees here on Kendall Green, that we stand ready, willing, and able to once again become the home of this famous fabulous fig tree. Oh joy.

all... in a day's work

By Angie Geffen

The office on the third floor of the Central Utilities Building is very organized—books are lined up in orderly fashion on the shelves, and papers are in precisely labeled folders on the desk. The whole scene evokes a sense of calm reassurance that things are in control here.

It is the office of Dwight Benedict, director of residential services. Benedict said with a laugh that people often assume that the work is easy, when in reality it is quite stressful. With half a dozen large renovation and maintenance projects this summer and deadlines that will not budge, Benedict and his staff have a lot to do and no time to waste.

This summer's projects include renovations of House 100 at MSSD, the Ballard Residential Complex, and Clerc Hall. "We only have eight to 10 weeks to get these renovations completed," Benedict said. "It is a challenge, but we are up to it."

Benedict's unit works seamlessly with two other departments in Facilities Management, whose executive director is Fred Kendrick. Bernard Holt leads Building/Grounds Maintenance Services and Utilities, and Construction Services get its direction from Dan Kirby.

Additional projects that involve Benedict and his team include servicing campus fire extinguishers, removing the electronic doors, appliances, and fire extinguishers from the Ely Center and Washburn Arts Building, contin-

ued maintenance of campus buildings, and involvement in logistics of campus events such as the recent Kappa Gamma anniversary celebration. Residential Services, along with Building/Grounds Maintenance Services and Utilities also play a large role with the behind-the-scenes work at commencement and convocation, which serve as bookends to the department's busiest season.

For example, Joe Hatfield, a 21-year Gallaudet employee and manager of residential operations under Benedict's department, oversaw the set-up logistics related to commencement and worked to keep it all on schedule. "Our goal is to do our best to help the students have successful functions," Hatfield said. Involved in that effort was Robert Crowe, the manager of Grounds Services, another department under the Facilities Management umbrella, who was responsible for beautifying the campus with flowers and meticulous landscaping. "Students would not be able to study or learn in an environment with trash and poorly manicured lawns," Crowe said. "It is imperative to maintain a beautiful environment to help with learning."

Benedict agrees. "Each project is met with commitment and dedication to successfully meet the needs of students," he said. He believes that his previous position as the director of Student Life provides him with the unique ability to serve as a bridge between students and other members of the campus community. **G**

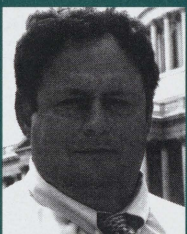
ROVING REPORTER

Why should the United States Olympic Committee provide financial support to the U.S. Deaflympics team? Should the USOC be required to provide 100 percent support or a smaller percentage?



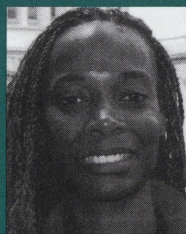
Bobbie Beth Scoggins, president of the United States Deaf Sports Federation, Kentucky:

Because our counterparts in the Olympic and Paralympic movements are fully funded in the millions of dollars, while we receive a paltry sum—just \$350,000 every four years for the Deaflympics from the USOC. We have worked tirelessly with the U.S. Olympic Committee for many years to achieve greater recognition. Our athletes deserve it!



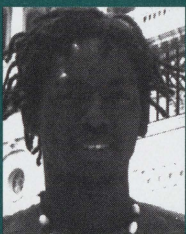
David Williamson, president of American Athletes With Disabilities:

There should be full funding from the USOC of the Deaflympics, similar to the support given to the Paralympics and the Olympic Games.



Cantrece Monge, track and field participant, California:

Because deaf and hard of hearing athletes are human beings and have the same needs as other athletes. The only difference between us is that we communicate with our hands. The Deaflympics should receive the same support as the hearing Olympics.



Carlos Stennett, track and field participant, Texas:

The USOC should look at us as their equals. We have to work so hard at fundraising, that it makes us feel like we aren't special. We should receive full funding from the USOC since we represent the United States of America.

Portals technology

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at the University will be involved in the portal design and implementation. "Academic Technology is not making decisions for the campus," King told the group. "How we evolve the portal and what things are included are things the campus needs to discuss."

Following the presentations, attendees took part in a hands-on demonstration of the portal project in a learning lab at HMB. Formal training will begin next month for portal users through meetings, demonstrations, e-mail, and web instruction. **G**

Deaflympians protest

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making, and financial decisions. Finally, we ask that the USOC provide full team support to our athletes."

Mike Moran, director of media relations for the USOC, disagrees with the Deaflympians. "We have been more than generous even though we are not required by Congress to fund the Deaf World Games. We are only required by law to fund the Special Olympics, Paralympics, and Olympic Games. The Deaflympic Games are not internationally recognized as an Olympic games," he said. Moran added that from 1997 to 2000 the USOC gave grants worth \$652,000 to the United States Deaf Sports Federation. "This year we have given them close to a half-million dollars. We have been very generous and totally supportive and should be praised instead of criticized," he said. **G**

AMONG OURSELVES

Dr. Paul Siegel, a professor in the Communication Arts Department, and author of *Communication Law in America*, was quoted in the June 11 issue of the *Boston Herald* in an article about public executions. "The net effect of televising (Timothy) McVeigh's last journey on attitudes toward the death penalty would be nil," said Siegel. "While the event would become a mass media ratings bonanza, parsing out how many watched it for the novelty and how many due to McVeigh's notoriety would be tricky to do. In any case, Americans have likely sanitized the process of capital punishment to the point of boredom, TV-wise."

The June 18 *Columbian* (Vancouver, Wash.) features an article on deaf culture related to deaf schools. MJ Bienvenu, an instructor in the Department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpreting, is quoted in the article: "Schools for the Deaf have been for a long time the place for deaf children to acquire ASL and be enculturated in American Deaf Culture. Because we are an oppressed group, who have been denied our language for many years, many found schools for the Deaf as a place that helped Deaf people develop a sense of pride of who they are and have their own identity."

